

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

FLN
265

1. *Afghans in the border area stated that, since the outbreak of the war in Korea, guards and defenses on the Soviet side had not been increased. Powerful Soviet searchlights light the border every fifteen miles along the Oxus River. These lights can be seen from as far away as Akcha, about thirty miles south of the border. Formerly, the lights which were trained on Pata Kesar, a village on the Afghan side of the Oxus opposite Termez, were so bright that small print could be read at night. An official protest was made to the USSR, and as a result the lights are turned on every hour and are swept back and forth along the Oxus River.*
2. *About every two miles on the Soviet side of the Oxus River, and along the land border, well-built and well-equipped military posts are located. Marker poles every fifteen miles or so delineate the land border near Andkhui. Afghans in this area stated that the land on the Soviet side was not grazed for a depth of about ten miles, and each fall this area is burned over to prevent smuggling across the border.*
3. *Little smuggling was reported along the border area, and no travel on the road from Mazar-i-Sharif to the Soviet border at Termez. However, the Afghans stated that some Soviet gasoline was brought into this area, all transported by camel, and there were substantial quantities of Soviet gasoline in Mazar-i-Sharif.* There appeared to be no traffic in the border area north of Herat, but the Afghans stated that Soviet gasoline was imported under the Afghan-Soviet trade agreement of 1950. Sheep herders stated that occasionally they smuggled in a good ram to improve their karakul flocks. In Herat there was a plentiful supply of Iranian gasoline. This reportedly was being smuggled over the Afghan-Iranian border in five-gallon tins.*
4. *A new road, which does not pass through Balkh, has been built from Mazar-i-Sharif about sixty-five miles west to Shibarghan. It crosses the Pul-i-Iman bridge and continues west about seven kilometers from the limestone ridge which borders the plains. The surface, made of crushed limestone, is*

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[REDACTED] a road running south from Kilif was to replace the route from Termez.

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